

## ON-LINE VALUE-BEARING INDICIUM PRINTING USING DSA

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for generating a Value Bearing Indicium (VBI) for on-line applications. A VBI is generated by hashing user information to create a message digest that is used to create a digital signature. The digital signature is combined with the user information to create a VBI that can be validated by a variety of stand-alone or on-line methods. An on-line postage metering application using the VBI is described.

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